

DISTRACTIONS of our Times.

Wherein is discovered the Ge-
nerall discontent of all Estates
throughout the whole Land.

Whereunto is added the *Round-heads Race.*

Nemo forte sua contentus.



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The distractions of these Times.

PLato saith, that every Common-wealth then runneth into ruine and decay. *Cum numerus quinaris tornariò, punctus duas efficit Harmonias*: This is a Musically Theoreme, and *Plato's* meaning was not in many hundred yeares (till of late times *Melancthon* and some of our late Writers resolved this Riddle), well understood the meaning, that State cannot subsist where the number of five, joynt to the number of three, maketh a dissonant, or a discordant Harmony. Every Kingdome (generally consisteth of three Estates, viz. The King or Prince, the Nobility, and the Commons.

All States may understand the benefit and sweetnesse of Unity, but I come to particular distractions, and divisions among our selves at this present, wherein *Nemo sua facie contentus erit*. And to begin with the present estate of Church, the Coate of our blessed Saviour was without seame, schisme or rent; woven all whole; which is or ought to bee the Embleme of the true Catholique and Apostolique Church, but if our Saviours Coate had had as many seames and rents as we have among our selves at this present, he would I am perswaded have vouchsafed never to have worne it, they that have torne this seamlesse Garment are not the *Jewes* who plaid for it, by casting Lots (though the Text saith in the Psalme, they divided my Garments, &c. for our Saviour ware more Garments than one) but our Moderne Schismatics and Sectuaries, who in every place like *Pharaoh's* Frogs infect the whole Land, that there is scarce a City or Towne, nay private house wherein they have not a part or party, so that the common people in the generall, and his Majesties best Subjects, hardly know what to beleeeve (some of them having published a new Creed) what booke to serve God withall, the booke of Common Prayer, and whole Liturgy being cryed downe amongst them for Idolatrous, prophane, and (as I have heard some of them affirme) an invention of the Divell, so that all the time of King *Edward* the sixth, *Q. Elizabeth* K. *James*, and of our Sovereigne K. *Charles* we have served the Divell by their reckoning, and we must say, *Iam nova progenies cœlo demittitur alto*. A new race (of Round-heads) are dropt from Heaven, to let us in the right way of serving God. But some will tell mee they are Saints, they live holily and keepe the Sabbath duly, &c. I confesse they do, and very strictly (as one an ale-house-keeper, in Southwark, had brewed a Barrell of strong Ale, and upon a Sunday morning he saw it working as ale will when it is new tunnd which he seeing and in a great rage, called for a hammer, and

saying what doe you worke upon the Lords day, I will none of this, so beating out the head of the barrell, he let all the Ale run upon the ground. Another using Marshall Law hanged up his ear for killing a mouse upon the Sabbath day. I could cloy my Reader with the like ridiculous actions of these fellows; so distracted and giddy as if they had lived with *Caine* in the Land of Nod (or rather in the Land of Noddy. But the Honourable House of Parliament hath taken an order for putting an end to these Divisions amongst us, that much danger yea mischiefe will heerby be prevented which otherwise, doubtlesse, might have ensued, and this course tooke *Constantine* in that horrible division and rent betweene the Orthodoxe Christians and the Arrians that is by a Counsell, he settled the true faith, and in the meane time caused them both to remaine quiet without disturbance either of the Church or Common-wealth, for never more bloody war among Nations or more bitter dislencion and quatrells have arose, betweene Church and Church, Citie and Citie, may friend and friend brother and brother, then through difference in Religion; did not *Diazus* a Spaniard ride 300. miles to murder his own brother, cleaving his head in two because he was a Protestant, how many Fathers disinherit their owne children because they professe a contrary Religion to theirs? and how many children forsake their own fathers and mothers for Religion-sake? how many Treasons were plotted and undertaken agninst our late Queen *Elizabeth* (of famous and Eternal memory) but for matter of Religion (as was pretended at least) how many Emperours, Kings and Princes, have been murdered for the Religion they professed, as *Thomas*, Emperour of *Constantinople* by the *Arrians*, *Henry* the third of *France*, and *Henry* the fourth also (as was thought) for favouring of the Protestants; over much difference of Religion divided in opinion *Asia* from *Africa*, which after gave way to blasphemous Mahomet, (the other being reconciled by the sword of the Turke) to bring in his hellish and ridiculous inventions in their roomes, but hereof sufficient, I only shew the danger of delay, in leaving the State of Religion, in a State unordered and unseled, Schollers in the Universities at this day, are distracted or in a maze not knowing how or what course they should take to live hereafter, their breeding there hath been very chargeable to their friends, and if they come to obtaine Schollerships or fellowships (such is our golden times) the sauce of obtaining them will cost almost as much as the meate is worth, and when they have taken their degrees by much study and expence, they are never the nearer to preferment. for whereas one addicting himselfe to the studie of divinity commeth by money or friends, to get a living for his god without, and are faine to turne Schoole-masters, countrey Physicians, and some (I have knowne) Solicitors in the Law, being discouraged by the unskilfulness of Religion, and liberty of the times when everie Hatterer, Ironmonger, Cobler and Horse-collar-maker shall passe among the multitude for

found a Divine as an Univerſitie can afford, and every known dunce and Ignoramus ſhall poſſeſſe 2. or 3. great Benefices, by meanes of his fathers purſe, or perhaps of a match with the Patrons Chambermaid (rid lately of her green ſickneſſe. by lying at his beds feet) When Civilians muſt turne common Attorneys and Solicitors, and in a word we finde almoſt a generall hate and loathing of learning the Arts and all excellencie of knowledge throughout the Land.

Gentlemen and inhabitants of the Countrey poſſeſſe themſelves and their Eſtates in diſtraction and feare of worle and more tumultuous times every where readier to ſell then to purchaſe, the want of money is ſuch a diſeaſe raigning amongſt them that ſome are ſcarce able to buy them horſes to come to petition for their grievances.

The Citie and Citizens know not well what to doe or truſt to, as firſt, what Religion to profeſſe. it ſelfe being as it were the conduit head of Sects and opinions which (as in pipes under ground, and in a cloſe manner) it deriveth into the whole Land, they dare hardly venture their ſhips at Sea, they have ſo many falſe friends and open enemies, nay among themſelves they know not (like *Iſſuab*) who are with them, or who againſt them, doubtleſſe the Citie nourisheth many Vipers within her owne boſome, beſide other Serpents that are neſted in her Suburbs, ready upon any uprore or rebellious tumult to devour her, therefore ſhee is not to be blamed if ſhe ſtrengtheneth her Garrifon fortiſieth her gates in the beſt manner ſhe may, ſhee hath now little returne of trade, her excellent Artiſans cannot get employment, or finde where to ſhew their ſkill, her Mechanicks walke work-leſſe up and down, or going into the Countrey to viſite their friends, ſome of them can hardly ever finde the way back againe.

What a diſtraction was amongſt that Rabble in the uproare at *Weſtmiſter*, when the Biſhop of *Yorke*s ſervants attending about the Abby Church to defend the ſame, and the Deanes Houſe belonging to his Lordſhip, at which time they were forced to come forth with weapons, and divers of them were hurt: amongſt all the reſt Sir *Richard Wiſeman* (whether by chance, or of ſet purpoſe is unknowne); but being there preſent, and ſaying to the rude Rabble openly, Gentlemen, I will be your Leader, was with a brick or ſtone from over the Abbey doore, and (not in *Weſtmiſter-hall*, neither was he a member of a Houſe of Commons, as in an Elegie, dedicated to his memory is moſt lyingly reported) of which wound he dyed: and afterwards his Corps was carried to *St. Stephens* Church in *Coleman-ſtreet*, and buried according to a new Church Government, lately enacted in a Conventicle of Scilmaticks, being accompanied with at leaſt five hundred Antick Biſhops, conſiſting of all ſorts with their Swords, mourning Cloakes, and black Ribands.

The ſtrong Towne of *Kingſton upon Hull*, hath bin diſtracted a long time, as ſearing in pleaſing one ſhe offends another.

And was not *Kington upon Thames* distracted, not knowing what to doe when Co anell *Lunsford* arose there with so many men

And I beleve my Lord Major, and the Bishop of *Chichester* were much amazed when the round party came about them, reviling my Lord Major most vilely, and telling him the Bishop was his Pope. For the Bishop Preaching at the Old Jewry, at my Lord Majors Parish Church, when the *Rounds* saw him in his Rochet, they fell on humming and hissing, then being put out of the Church-doore, they gat up to the windowes, and brake downe the glasse, still continuing their rayling, and reviling, to the disturbance of the whole Church.

And were not these *Round-heads* themselves distracted, when one of their companions, a Cooper, after hee had broken off a legg of the Statue of Christ, upon Cheape-side Crosse, fell upon the Iron Pikes, standing about the Crosse, where receiving his deadly wound he dyed shortly after. under the hands of a Chyrurgeon dwelling in Roode Lane.

Physicians are mightily distracted, and out of patience, because their whole Colledge knowes not how to cure this Epidemicall disease (that like the sweating Sicknesse in times past) raigneth over the whole Land, that is, want of money.

And I beleve *Abel*, and *Kilvert* are not yet cured of this common Disease, since they played their projecting pranks. Also our Clergy in generall are distracted, till the Synod be past.

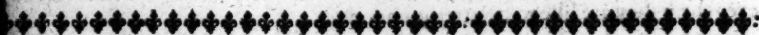
Proctors, Apparitors, and all other Officers of the spirituall Court, are likewise distracted, as now wanting work, and except Hay-time, and Harvest releaves them they are like to be utterly undone.

In the City the Usurer is distracted, not knowing where or to whom to let out his money, where he may be sure of it againe, or being already out of his hands how to come by it againe; a witty Gallant comes to one of them in *Moorefields* and desires he might borrow 100. pounds of him, quoth Mr. *Foxcraft* the Usurer, to the Gentleman. Sir you are a meere stranger unto me, I never knew or saw you before, that is the only reason quoth the other that I come to borrow it, for if you knew me you would never lend me a penny.

The Courrier is discontented finding his journey's long, so little money in the Exchequer, and the absence of his Mr. from White-hall and the Parliament,

The followers of Nobles and Gentlemen, who hold their Tenures only at the will of their Lords and Masters are now a dayes distracted and know not what they shall trust to, if giving the least distaste, or by committing the least offence they shall incur their displeasures, and so be cast off, for these times are not like the forepast, when for their honest Service they had extraordinary favours, Annuall Pensions given them during their lives, yea though they in time their Service had committed some grosse errors and highly displeased their Masters.

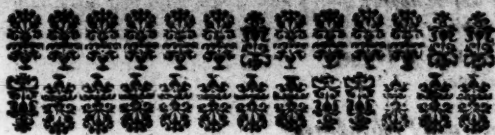
A worthy auncient Gentleman in the time of Q. Elizabeth dwelling in Barkshire whose name was Mr. Young, a great house-keeper living a Batchelor all his life, against a Christmas sent up a man he had with forty pounds to London to bestow in fute, spice and other commodities (for at that time he ever kept open house,) his man at London lighting among cheaters, lost all his Masters money at cards, and not knowing what to doe, by the advice of a chamberlaine of an Inn in Holborne, was perswaded to joyne himselfe with two or three good fellows, who were resolved to take a purse upon the high way beyond Higate, he consented, and they meeting with fourscore and od pounds, the other theeves went cleare away with the money; and left him to be taken, not getting a penny of it, howsoever he was carried to Newgate, where arraigned and condemned was (a litle before Christmas) to be executed; which his Mr. hearing of, upon the very morning when the carts were come to Tiburn, came thither with his mans pardon, which the Queene (with whom he was very gracious) had granted, & coming to the Sheriffe, said, Mr. Sheriffe have I not a man among your company here to be executed, I know not quoth the Sheriffe, oh yes, I see him there quoth Mr. Young, (for he was piniond making his confession with a psalme booke in his hand) Sirrah quoth he, you rascall, doe I send you about my business, and you stand preaching there, come down, or Ile fetch you downe with a mischief, and get you home about your business, his Mr. not only entertained him againe, but at his death gave him an annuities to maintaine him while he lived.



His Majesties ship Carpenters are in a distraction and know not of whom, nor where to get timber for the building of ships to furnish and increase his Navy Royall, since the forest of Deane was cut down, and other of the best timber woods in England (without especiall order taken by the Honourable Parliament) are like to run the same fortune,

The Inhabitants neer and about the Fennes in Lincolnshire, as about Boston, Latham, Sibley, Stickney and other places are distracted and know not what to doe or how to recover their Commons and Fennes againe out of the projectors hands, beside their Cattell this Summer it is thought will run mad for want of a ter.

If I should describe the severall distractions of the world I should exceed to numbering, but I content me with these the most eminent of our times. Wishing heartly I might not at any time hereafter have occasion to write more of this or the same substance.



The Round-beads Race.

K Now then my Brethren, Heaven is cleare,
 the Eclipsed Clouds are gone,
 The righteous now shall flourish, and
 good dayes are comming on.
 Come then my Brethren and be glad,
 and eke rejoyce with me,
 Lawne sleeves and Ruchets shall goe downe,
 and Hey then up goe wee.

Wee'l breake the windowes which the whore
 of Babylon hath painted,
 And when the Popish Saints goe downe
 then Burton shall be sainted.
 Then neither Crosse, nor Crucifix
 shall stand, for now I see
 Romes Trash and trumpery shall goe downe,
 and Hey then up goe we.

What ere the Popish hands have built
 Our Hammers shall undoe,
 Wee'l breake the Pipes, and burne the Coapes,
 and pull downe Churches too.
 Wee'l exercise within a Grove,
 and teach beneath a Tree,
 And make a Pulpit of a Cart,
 and Hey then up goe we.

Wee'l downe with Vniuersities,
 where Learning is profest
 Because they prattle and maintaine
 the Language of the Beast.

Wee'l

Woe'll drive the Doctors out of doores,
and all what ere they be;
Woe'll cry all Arts and Learning downe,
and Hey then up goe we.

Woe'll downe with Deawes, and Prebends too,
and rejoyce to sell yee,
How that woe'll eate fat Piggs our fill,
and Capons by the belly.
Woe'll burne the fathers with their Toomes,
and make the Schoole-men flee,
Woe'll downe with all that smells of wit,
and Hey then up goe we.

Since then the Anti-Christiā crew
be prest and over-shrowne,
Woe'll teach the Nobles how to crouch,
and keepe the Gentry downe.
Good manners hath an ill report
and turns to pride we see;
Woe'll therefore cry all manners downe,
and Hey then up goe we.

The name of Lord, shall be abhor'd,
for each man is a brother,
No reason why in Church, or State,
one man should rule another.
But when the change of Government
shall set our fingers free,
Woe'll lay the wanton Sisters downe,
and Hey then, up goe we.



FINIS.

